

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /031 W

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R 080930Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4838

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, US

SUBJECT: GOA AND BICENTENNIAL

1. GOA MOVED IN CONTRADICTORY FASHIONS, AS USUAL, TO CELEBRATE US BICENTENNIAL.

2. ON ONE HAND, GOA, THROUGH FLN, HOSTED CONFERENCE ON RIGHTS OF PEOPLE (ALGIERS 1678), WHOSE SESSIONS JULY 1-4 SPEWED OUT SERIES OF ANTI-AMERICAN TIRADES. THEMES COALESCED AROUND IDEA EXPRESSED IN OFFICIAL GOA PRESS ACCOUNT THAT US "FIRST COUNTRY TO HAVE WAGED AN ANTI-COLONIAL BATTLE" IS "TODAY WORLD'S FOREMOST IMPERIALIST POWER". SESSIONS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE. WE TOLD BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE THAT ISSUANCE OF CONFERENCE'S FINAL "UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF PEOPLES" ON JULY 4 DELIBERATE TIMING.

3. IN ADDITION, ONLY BICENTENNIAL STORY TO APPEAR IN PRESS, ENTITLED "THE BICENTENNIAL IN THE USA - A PROFOUND MALAISE", REPORTED INDIAN DEMONSTRATION IN WASHINGTON, VARIOUS STRIKES, AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF US CITIES.

4. ON OTHER HAND GOA TURNED OUT IN ROUTINE TOKEN FORCE FOR 3 JULY RECEPTION; PERHAPS EVEN EVER SO SLIGHTLY MORE THAN TOKEN. THOUGH DESIGNATED MINISTER FAILED TO SHOW, SENDING HIS EXPLANATION
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WITH HIS SECRETARY GENERAL, ANOTHER MINISTER SHOWED

UP VOLUNTARILY, AS DID SEC GEN FOREIGN MINISTRY
BENHABYLES WHO, GIVEN FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA'S ABSENCE
AND RECORD OF NEVER SEEING AMBASSADORS OR
ATTENDING RECEPTIONS, RANKS AS MINISTER AND WHO
SHOWS UP RARELY AT RECEPTIONS.

5. FURTHERMORE, WE ARE TOLD THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE
AND FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA MESSAGES DESIGNED TO BE UNUSUALLY
WARM. ON JULY 21 EXPOSTULATED TO ABERKANE, CHIEF OF
NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DIVISION OF
FOREIGN MINISTRY, THAT CONFERENCE ON RIGHTS OF PEOPLES
SESSION HARDLY SEEMED APPROPRIATE GOA BICENTENNIAL
GESTURE. HE WINCED, BUT NOTED ACCURATELY THAT ONE OF
HARSHEST COMMENTATORS WAS AMERICAN. HE SAID THAT HE
WAS IN PROCESS OF DRAFTING BOUMEDIENE'S AND BOUTEFLIKA'S
MESSAGE AND THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO MAKE UP FOR CONFERENCE
SESSIONS BY DRAFTING "EXTREMELY WARM" MESSAGES. AT
3 JULY RECEPTION BENHABYLES WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO NOTE
THAT MESSAGES WERE ON THEIR WAY AND THAT THEY
WERE "VERY CORDIAL". UPON HEARING TEXTS OF
MESSAGES BROADCAST ON ALGERIAN RADIO, ONE LONG-TIME
FOREIGN OBSERVER OF ALGERIAN SCENE COMMENTED THAT
THEY SEEMED "EXCEPTIONALLY CORDIAL".

6. WE CANNOT MEASURE WARMTH OF SUCH MESSAGES, BUT
GOA FORNMIN APPARENTLY CONCIOUS OF NEED TO MAKE SOME
EFFORT, AT LEAST, TO TRY TO COUNTERACT SUCH
PROPAGANDA VENTURES AS CONFERENCE ON RIGHTS OF PEOPLES. LYNE

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